

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES REPETITIVE LOSS AREA ANALYSIS PROGRESS REPORT



2016-17

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REPETITIVE LOSS AREA ANALYSIS
PROGRESS REPORT 2016-17**

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**County of Los Angeles
Repetitive Loss Area Analysis
2016-17 Annual Progress Report**

REPORTING PERIOD: September 6, 2016, to September 5, 2017

BACKGROUND

The County of Los Angeles (County) participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS). In compliance with the NFIP, the County prepared a Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP), which is an overall strategy of programs, projects, and measures aimed at reducing the adverse impact of flood hazards in the community.

The County also prepared a Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA). The RLAA is an assessment of areas that include structures identified by FEMA as Repetitive Loss Properties. FEMA defines a repetitive loss property as any insurable building, for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the NFIP within any rolling 10-year period, since 1978. The RLAA outlines the areas that may be exposed to similar flood risk, the likely sources of flooding, and possible mitigation measures to reduce the risk from flood events.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this progress report is to provide an annual update on the implementation of the action plan identified in the RLAA. The objective is to ensure there is a continuing and responsive planning process that will keep the RLAA and related outreach efforts dynamic and responsive to the needs and capabilities of the County and stakeholders. This report discusses the following:

- Review of the action plan
- Implementation status of action plan
- Recommendations for changes/enhancement

REPETITIVE LOSS AREA ANALYSIS PROGRESS

Summary Overview of the Action Plan's Progress: The RLAA was created in conjunction with the development of the FMP. The FMP identified and prioritized an action plan that had a direct relevance to the RLAA. The 35 flood hazard mitigation initiatives identified in the FMP's action plan were adapted to apply to the RLAA's action plan.

The FMP Steering Committee, made up of stakeholders within the planning area, reviewed and approved the annual progress report for the FMP at a meeting held on March 20, 2018. The FMP and the FMP progress report for 2016-17 are available at the following website:

<https://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/nfip/fmp/>

The RLAA was adopted by the County's Board of Supervisors on September 6, 2016. Although a formal update is required every 5 years, the RLAA can be adjusted as needed during this period. The RLAA identified 35 flood hazard mitigation initiatives to be pursued during the 5-year period. During its first year, the mitigation initiatives identified in the RLAA are considered to be 66 percent complete. As of this reporting period, the overall progress is as follows:

- 15 out of 35 initiatives (43 percent) reported ongoing action toward completion.
- 18 out of 35 initiatives (51 percent) were reported as being complete.
- 2 out of 35 initiatives (6 percent) reported no action taken.

Review of the Action Plan: Table 1 reviews the action plan, reporting the status of each initiative. More detailed descriptions of each initiative and the prioritization process can be found in the RLAA or FMP.

TABLE 1 ACTION PLAN MATRIX			
Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 1 — Promote awareness of flood hazards to residents in repetitive loss areas			
Yes	High	In October 2017, 226 copies of CDs containing County of Los Angeles and FEMA publications were mailed by the County's Department of Public Works (Public Works) to all Repetitive Loss Properties (RLP) and properties in the Repetitive Loss Areas (RLA). In October 2017, Public Works mailed copies of the County's "Are You Prepared for A Flood?" brochure to an additional 3,551 properties/units within the County's unincorporated areas. Public Works checked and updated the County's NFIP Website links. Previously, Public Works distributed brochures to the Malibu, Rosemead, and Castaic public libraries. Public Works distributed brochures to additional public libraries closer to the floodplains including libraries in Topanga, Altadena, Duarte, and San Dimas.	✓
Completion status legend: ✓ = Project Completed, continue to implement as necessary O = Action ongoing toward completion X = No progress at this time			

TABLE 1 ACTION PLAN MATRIX			
Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 2 — Develop and distribute flood protection information and materials to property owners, renters, and developers in Repetitive Loss Areas.			
Yes	High	In October 2017, 226 copies of CDs containing County of Los Angeles and FEMA publications were mailed by Public Works to all Repetitive Loss Properties (RLPs) and properties in the RLAs. In October 2017, Public Works mailed copies of "Are You Prepared for A Flood?" brochures to an additional 3,551 properties/units in Special Flood Hazard Areas, County Floodways, and possible gaps in floodplain mapping within the County's unincorporated areas.	✓
Initiative No. 3 — Maintain a list of critical facilities located in FEMA-designated flood zones, provide flood protection information to operators of these critical facilities, and encourage the implementation of flood protection measures.			
Yes	High	Public Works is mailing a letter and outreach materials to owners of critical facilities located in FEMA's-designated 100-year (1 percent annual chance) flood zones within the County's unincorporated areas. Critical facilities receiving outreach materials include schools, hospitals, fire stations, and health care facilities.	O
Initiative No. 4 — Investigate Repetitive Loss Properties identified by FEMA and update the Repetitive Loss Property and high-risk property list. Conduct the following flood control activities for these properties:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually notify owners regarding local flood hazards and proper protection activities Provide technical advice regarding flood protection and flood preparedness Distribute a revised questionnaire to new Repetitive Loss Properties 			
Yes	High	By the end of July 2018, all RLP and RLAA properties will have been visited by Public Works. In October 2017, 226 copies of CDs containing County of Los Angeles and FEMA publications were mailed by Public Works to all RLP and RLAA properties.	O
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TABLE 1 ACTION PLAN MATRIX			
Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 5 — Make sand bags available to RLA property owners during the wet season, provide notifications of the availability of these materials, and track the distribution of the materials.			
Yes	High	Public Works provides sandbags to the County's Fire Department for distribution to residents through more than 160 local County Fire Stations. Demand for sandbags varies from year to year. For the El Niño 2015-16 storm season, Public Works provided 1,257,000 sandbags to the Fire Department. For the 2016-17 storm season, approximately 100,000 sandbags were distributed to the Fire Department. Public Works maintains an inventory of over 750,000 sandbags for distribution. Public Works also maintains a website where residents can search for the nearest location to obtain sandbags. http://dpw.lacounty.gov/dsg/sandbags/	✓
Initiative No. 6 — Provide public education about maintaining the stormwater system free of debris.			
Yes	High	Public Works launched the Stormwater Public Education Program in an effort to educate members of the public about what they can do to prevent pollution and keep local waterways clean. The program uses a variety of different outreach efforts to help remind people what happens when they don't think about the effect they have on the environment. Current program outreach activities, include paid advertising, community pilot programs, media relations, and corporate partnerships. In addition, the program provides technical assistance to the County's incorporated cities to help promote cohesive pollution prevention efforts throughout the region.	✓
Initiative No. 7 — Continue to maintain/enhance the County's classification under the Community Rating System to address increased flood insurance costs and promote safety and preparedness.			
Yes	High	As of 2017, County holds a CRS class standing of 7. The County continues to maintain and strive to identify activities to help maintain and improve the CRS class rating.	O
Initiative No. 8 — Include RLAs in the Implementation of the Program for Public Information (PPI) protocol identified in the FMP and include appropriate messaging for compliance with ADA.			
Yes	High	The County continued the implementation of the PPI developed in 2016. A report detailing the PPI implementation status for the 2016-17 period was approved by the PPI Committee on August 30, 2017.	✓
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**TABLE 1
ACTION PLAN MATRIX**

Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 9 — Provide emergency preparedness and flood protection information to the RLAs.			
Yes	High	<p>The County provides emergency and flood protection information to the general public, which include RLAs through different means including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A website specifically devoted to providing emergency preparation information that includes resources, tips, and facts to equip and alert residents on how to best respond to emergencies and recover from disasters. http://www.lacounty.gov/emergency/ • The County's Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management website features informational resource links to Federal, State, and local government emergency operations departments and agencies, and nongovernmental organizations in the Links to Websites Section. http://www.lacoa.org/ • Various flood hazard videos are produced by the County and made available through YouTube including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Storm water safety: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jFI6Z-Ld4w o Swift water: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcOpX7TGY84 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_oeljOP_o_k o Storm season evacuation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqrr1_o4WYA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07BHy2Acq-Q 	✓
<p>Completion status legend:</p> <p>✓ = Project Completed, continue to implement as necessary</p> <p>O = Action ongoing toward completion</p> <p>X = No progress at this time</p>			

<p style="text-align: center;">TABLE 1 ACTION PLAN MATRIX</p>			
Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 10 — Distribute information to RLAs regarding flood prevention and flood insurance at emergency operations and emergency preparedness events.			
Yes	High	Public Works' Disaster Service Group participated in emergency preparedness events throughout this reporting period and provided attendees with the "Are You Prepared for A Flood" brochure and the "Homeowner's Guide for Flood, Debris, and Erosion Control" booklet. In addition, various departments from the County participated in the Emergency Preparedness Fair at Public Works' Headquarters on April 5, 2017. Participants at the fair provided attendees with information and resources for preparation, including the brochures "Are You Prepared for a Flood?", "ALERT LA," "Homeowner's Guide for Flood, Debris, and Erosion Control," and the "Emergency Survival Guide."	✓
Initiative No. 11 — Develop and maintain a list of problem sites, including those associated with the sources for repetitive flooding, where a maintenance solution would be the top priority.			
Yes	High	When Public Works encountered maintenance-related problem sites, it mitigated maintenance-related issues with improvement projects and/or increased maintenance.	✓
Initiative No. 12 — Conduct routine maintenance of flood control facilities and additional maintenance as needed at identified problem sites, including identified RLAs.			
Yes	High	In the past year, as well as every year, Public Works performed routine inspection and maintenance for 471 miles of open channels, 15 dams, 27 spreading grounds, 34 detention/retention basins, 174 debris basins, 333 debris retaining inlets, 68 pump plants, and approximately 820 miles of underground storm drains.	✓
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TABLE 1 ACTION PLAN MATRIX			
Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 13 — Conduct a stormwater facilities condition assessment to identify the physical and hydraulic condition of the system and to support infrastructure management.			
Yes	High	Public Works' Stormwater Maintenance Division (SWMD) performed routine inspections of Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) facilities per SWMD Standard Procedures. During inspections, any deficiencies exceeding LACFCD's Acceptable Maintenance Conditions were noted and corresponding facilities were restored to SWMD's standards. In addition, Public Works is implementing a pilot program that utilizes drones to perform inspections of certain Public Works' facilities, such as dams and bridges. A video detailing this pilot program is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxuZ8-UVe-U	✓
Initiative No. 14 — Evaluate storm drain, open channel, and flood retention basin facilities for future improvements.			
Yes	High	Public Works routinely conducts studies to determine flood hazard risks and evaluate flood control facilities to identify potential future improvements. The Dominguez Channel Flood Risk Mitigation Alternative Study and the Santa Clara River Feasibility Study are examples of current ongoing studies.	O
Initiative No. 15 — Pursue appropriate flood hazard mitigation grant funding.			
Yes	High	The County continues to look for opportunities to work with FEMA to identify flood hazard mitigation funding opportunities. The County is also a participant of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance External Stakeholder Working Group.	O
Initiative No. 16 — Where feasible and cost effective, consider the conversion of high-risk properties into open space.			
Yes	High	The conversion of high-risk properties into open space is consistent with Public Works' goals to reduce flood risk, improve water conservation and quality, and create recreational opportunities for the County.	O
Initiative No. 17 — Refine the plan check system to track properties in the flood zone and address drainage.			
Yes	Medium	Public Works is in the process of developing a new plan check database system to better track and address permit requests from properties in flood zones.	O
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TABLE 1 ACTION PLAN MATRIX			
Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 18 — Flag Repetitive Loss Properties (RLP) in the plan and check database for review and approval of building permit applications.			
Yes	High	Public Works is developing a new database system to better flag RLP for building permit applications.	O
Initiative No. 19 — Maintain a database system for tracking all reviewed and approved elevation certificates prior to the closure of a building permit.			
Yes	High	Public Works is developing a new database system to better track elevation certificates prior to the closure of a building permit.	O
Initiative No. 20 — Evaluate opportunities for incorporating watershed ecosystem restoration where feasible as an additional element of projects that protect RLA.			
Yes	High	Public Works continues to evaluate opportunities for watershed ecosystem restoration. Some potential projects to incorporate watershed ecosystem restoration include: Arroyo Seco Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, and Compton Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.	O
Initiative No. 21 — Where feasible, cost-effective and supported both publicly and politically, restore the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains.			
Yes	Medium	Public Works continues to evaluate opportunities to restore the natural and beneficial functions floodplains. Public Works is currently partnering with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and State Coastal Conservancy on the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project to potentially restore approximately 600 acres of Ballona Wetlands.	O
Initiative No. 22 — Encourage the application of biological resource measures for the control of stormwater and erosion to the best of their applicable limits.			
Yes	High	The County encourages Low-Impact Development (LID) for stormwater management by adopting a LID ordinance and creating a LID standards manual. LID is an approach to stormwater management that works to mimic the natural hydrology of the site by retaining precipitation on-site to the maximum extent practicable. LID strategies are designed to protect surface and groundwater quality, maintain the integrity of ecosystems, and preserve the physical integrity of receiving waters by managing stormwater runoff at or close to the source.	✓
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TABLE 1 ACTION PLAN MATRIX			
Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 23 — Maintain the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan			
Yes	High	In 2012, the County's Board of Supervisors approved the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP). The OAERP conforms to the requirements of the National Incident Management System and the California Standardized Emergency Management System. Currently, there are no revisions to the OAERP. The OAERP will be reviewed, exercised periodically, and revised as necessary to meet changing conditions.	O
Initiative No. 24 — Maintain standards for the use of structural and nonstructural techniques that mitigate flood hazards and manage stormwater pollution.			
Yes	High	The County prepared the 2014 LID Standards Manual. The LID Standards Manual provides guidance for the implementation of stormwater quality control measures in new development and redevelopment projects in unincorporated areas of the County with the intention of improving water quality and mitigating potential water quality impacts from stormwater and nonstormwater discharges.	✓
Initiative No. 25 — Continue to require environmental review in the development process to provide for the creation or protection of natural resources that can mitigate the impacts of development.			
Yes	High	The County's Department of Regional Planning performs environmental review for land use planning for unincorporated communities in the County. Projects that generally require an environmental assessment are plan amendments, zone changes, conditional use permits, tentative parcel maps, and tentative tract maps.	O
Initiative No. 26 — Where appropriate, support retrofitting, purchase, or relocation of structures in hazard-prone RLAs to prevent future structure damage. Give priority to properties with exposure to repetitive losses.			
Yes	High	The County continues to enforce NFIP regulations for permit applications related to activities determined to be Substantial Improvements or Substantial Damage repair/restoration. Such enforcement protects the property owners' investments and safety and over time, reduces the number of buildings exposed to flood risk.	✓
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**TABLE 1
ACTION PLAN MATRIX**

Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 27 — Use risk-based information from the FMP and the County of Los Angeles Hazard Mitigation Plan to update the Safety Element of the County's General Plan.			
Yes	High	<p>The current County of Los Angeles General Plan was adopted by the County's Board of Supervisors on October 6, 2015.</p> <p>The Safety Element of the County's General Plan works in conjunction with the OAERP. The OAERP, prepared by the County's Chief Executive Office (CEO) – Office of Emergency Management, strengthens short and long-term emergency response and recovery capability and identifies emergency procedures and emergency management routes in the County of Los Angeles. To access the OAERP, please visit the County's CEO website at http://lacoa.org/oaerp.htm.</p> <p>The County's All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which provides policy guidance for minimizing threats from natural and manmade hazards in the County of Los Angeles was approved on February 24, 2014, by the County's Board of Supervisors, by FEMA, and by the California Emergency Management Agency. The All-Hazard Mitigation Plan used the 2009 County of Los Angeles Floodplain Management Plan and 2014 draft of the County of Los Angeles General Plan as resources. For more information on the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, please visit the CEO's website at http://lacoa.org/hazmit.htm.</p>	✓
Initiative No. 28 — Continue to maintain good standing under the NFIP by implementing programs that meet or exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. Such programs include enforcing an adopted flood damage prevention ordinance, participating in floodplain mapping updates, and providing public assistance and information on floodplain requirements and impacts.			
Yes	High	The County continues to maintain and strive to identify activities that meet or exceed NFIP requirements and to help improve the CRS class rating.	✓
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**TABLE 1
ACTION PLAN MATRIX**

Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 29 — Consider the best available data and science to determine probable impacts on all forms of flooding from global climate change when making program enhancements or updates to the County's FMP.			
Yes	High	<p>Public Works partnered with the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation to prepare a study of the Los Angeles Basin in cooperation with local water agencies and nongovernmental organizations to explore long-term water conservation opportunities and flood risk management impacts from climate change within the Los Angeles Basin.</p> <p>The Los Angeles Basin Study looked at the period from 2010 to 2095, and used state-of-the-art climate change and hydrologic modeling to develop projections of future water supply and demands in the region. Potential climate change impacts from changes to precipitation and evapotranspiration; storm intensity; and the quantity and quality, and variability of runoff, recharge, and imported water deliveries to the region were also evaluated. The study also analyzed the major components of the water conservation and flood protection system, such as dams, spreading grounds, and major channel outlets.</p> <p>The hydrologic modeling performed for the study can be used to estimate future flood events and establish trends that could result from projected climate change. The performance of the flood control infrastructure can also be analyzed using the hydrology modeling results from the study and help determine the probable impacts on flooding from climate change.</p> <p>The Los Angeles Basin Study is available online at:</p> <p>https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/bsp/docs/fy2017/LABasinStudySummaryReport.pdf</p>	O
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TABLE 1 ACTION PLAN MATRIX			
Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 30 — Identify flood-warning systems for properties where such systems can be beneficially employed. These would include repetitive loss properties located in the Special Flood Hazard Area.			
Yes	Medium	<p>The County has developed and implemented an emergency mass notification system that is used to contact County residents and businesses via recorded phone, text, or e-mail messages in case of emergency. The system, called ALERT LA County, is used by the County's Emergency Operations Center to notify residents and businesses of emergencies or critical situations and provide information regarding necessary actions, such as evacuations. The system also utilizes the telephone companies' 911 database and can contact land-line telephone numbers, whether listed or unlisted. If the call is picked up by an answering machine, the system will leave a recorded message. If the number called is busy or does not answer, the system will redial the number in an attempt to deliver the message. The system is also TTY/TDD compatible.</p> <p>In addition, the National Weather Service sends out mass notifications to impacted communities via Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). WEA are emergency messages sent by authorized government authorities through participating mobile carriers. Government partners include local and State public safety agencies, FEMA, the FCC, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Weather Service. No app or sign-up is required and alerts are sent automatically to WEA - capable phones during emergencies.</p>	✓
Initiative No. 31 — Consider the development of a comprehensive flood warning and response plan for the unincorporated County that would become a functional annex to the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan and meet the Community Rating System Activity 610 requirements.			
Yes	High	Public Works will consider the development of a comprehensive flood warning and response plan for the unincorporated County that would become a functional annex to the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan. Update of the County's Operational Area Response Plan is projected to begin by the end of 2017.	X
Initiative No. 32 — Continue to enforce the County's development regulations to prevent increases of the flood hazard on adjacent properties.			
Yes	High	The County continues to regulate development in FEMA's Special Flood Hazard Areas and adopted County Floodplains in unincorporated areas.	✓
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TABLE 1 ACTION PLAN MATRIX			
Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Priority	Status	Completion Status (X, O, ✓)
Initiative No. 33 — Conduct an evaluation of FEMA-designated flood zones and revise/update them to reflect current conditions.			
Yes	Medium	Public Works is working with FEMA to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for several streams. Updates are due to new flood insurance studies being conducted by FEMA in cooperation with affected cities and the County of Los Angeles. In addition, Public Works reviews Conditional Letter of Map Revision submittals for projects that may revise/update FEMA designated flood zones.	✓
Initiative No. 34 — Continue to maintain and update the Hazus-MH model constructed to support the development of the Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan, to make flood risk information available to RLA property owners.			
Yes	High	The County continues to update the data used in the Hazus-MH model, such as property information.	O
Initiative No. 35 — Continue County coordination with other agencies and stakeholders on issues of flood control.			
Yes	Medium	The County continues to partner and explore partnership opportunities with other agencies and stakeholders regarding flood control issues.	O
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Recommendations for Changes or Enhancements: The following recommendations will be noted for future updates or revisions to the RLAA:

- Consider providing outreach material via a file sharing system like Dropbox to replace mailing out CDs.
- Assess the feasibility of creating a more mobile friendly version of the Flood Zone Determination Website.
- Consider the use of PulsePoint or private social networks like Nextdoor to assist in providing alerts to the residents.
- Consider the use of other social media platforms like Facebook to reach more residents.

PUBLIC REVIEW NOTICE

The contents of this report are considered to be public knowledge and have been prepared for total public disclosure. Copies of the report have been provided posted on the Floodplain Management Plan Website and provided to the local media outlets. Any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report should be directed to:

*County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
(626) 458-6131*